

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A system for remotely monitoring an individual, the system comprising:
- a) a server;
 - b) a remote interface means for entering in the server a set of queries to be answered by the individual; and
 - c) a remotely programmable apparatus for interacting with the individual, the apparatus being in communication with the server via a communication network;
- wherein the server comprises:
- i) a script generating means for generating a script program from the set of queries, the script program being executable by the apparatus to communicate the queries to the individual, to receive responses to the queries, and to transmit the responses from the apparatus to the server; and
 - ii) a database means connected to the script generating means for storing the script program and the responses to the queries;
- and wherein the apparatus comprises:
- i) a communication means for receiving the script program from the server and for transmitting the responses to the server;
 - ii) a user interface means for communicating the queries to the individual and for receiving the responses to the queries;
 - iii) a memory means for storing the script program and the responses to the queries; and
 - iv) a processor means connected to the communication means, the user interface means, and the memory means for executing the script program to communicate the queries to the individual, to

receive the responses to the queries, and to
transmit the responses to the server.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the server comprises a
web server having a web page for entry of the queries,
and wherein the remote interface means is connected to
the web server via the Internet.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface
means comprises a display for displaying the queries
and user input buttons for entering the responses.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface
means includes a speech synthesis means for audibly
communicating the queries to the individual.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface
means includes a speech recognition means for
receiving spoken responses to the queries.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one
monitoring device for producing measurements of a
physiological condition of the individual and for
transmitting the measurements to the apparatus,
wherein the apparatus further includes device
interface means connected to the processor means for
receiving the measurements from the monitoring device,
the memory means includes means for storing the
measurements, and the communication means includes
means for transmitting the measurements to the server.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the device
interface means includes means for interfacing
with a plurality of monitoring devices, and the

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what is claimed is :

script program specifies a selected monitoring device from which to collect the measurements.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the server further comprises report means for displaying the responses and the measurements on the remote interface means.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the communication means includes means for establishing a first communication link to the server to receive the script program and means for establishing a subsequent communication link to the server to transmit the responses, and wherein the script program specifies a connection time at which to establish the subsequent communication link.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further includes notification means connected to the processor means for notifying the individual that unanswered queries are stored in the apparatus.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the notification means comprises a visual indicator for visually notifying the individual.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the notification means comprises a display for displaying a prompt.

13. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of remotely programmable apparatuses in communication with the server for remotely monitoring a corresponding plurality of individuals, wherein the database means includes means for storing a plurality of script programs, the remote interface means includes means for entering script assignment

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information, the server includes script assignment means connected to the database means for assigning to each of the individuals at least one of the script programs in accordance with the script assignment information, and the database means further includes means for storing a list of the individuals, and for each of the individuals, a respective pointer to the script program assigned to the individual.

14. A method for remotely monitoring an individual, the method comprising the following steps:
- a) providing the individual with an apparatus having:
 - i) a communication means for exchanging data with a server through a communication network, wherein the data includes a script program executable by the apparatus to communicate queries to the individual, to receive responses to the queries, and to transmit the responses to the server;
 - ii) a memory means for storing the script program and the responses to the queries;
 - iii) a user interface means for communicating the queries to the individual and for receiving the responses to the queries; and
 - iv) a processor means connected to the communication means, the user interface means, and the memory means for executing the script program;
 - b) entering in the server the queries to be answered by the individual;
 - c) generating the script program from the queries;
 - d) transmitting the script program from the server to the apparatus through the communication network;
 - e) executing the script program in the apparatus to communicate the queries, to receive the responses, and to transmit the responses to the server; and
 - f) receiving and storing the responses in the server.

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1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the server comprises a
2 web server having a web page for entry of the queries,
3 and wherein the queries are entered by accessing the
4 web page through the Internet and entering the queries
5 in the web page.
6

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the apparatus further
2 comprises a device interface connected to the
3 processor means for receiving from a monitoring device
4 measurements of a physiological condition of the
5 individual, and wherein the method further comprises
6 the steps of:

- 7 a) collecting the measurements in the apparatus
8 through the device interface;
9 b) transmitting the measurements from the apparatus
10 to the server; and
11 c) receiving and storing the measurements in the
12 server.
13

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the device
2 interface includes means for interfacing with a
3 plurality of monitoring devices, the script
4 program specifies a selected monitoring device
5 from which to collect the measurements, and the
6 method further comprises the step of prompting the
7 individual to connect the selected monitoring
8 device to the device interface.
9

1 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the
2 step of reporting on a remote interface the
3 responses and measurements received in the server.
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1 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the script program is
2 transmitted from the server to the apparatus through a

first communication link, the responses to the queries are transmitted from the apparatus to the server through a subsequent communication link, and the script program specifies a connection time at which to establish the subsequent communication link.

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of notifying the individual when unanswered queries are stored in the apparatus.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises a visual indicator connected to the processor means and the step of notifying the individual comprises lighting the visual indicator.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises a display connected to the processor means and the step of notifying the individual comprises displaying a prompt on the display.

23. The method of claim 14, wherein the user interface means comprises a display and input buttons, and wherein the queries are communicated through the display and the responses are received through the input buttons.

24. The method of claim 14, wherein the user interface means includes a speech synthesizer, and wherein the queries are communicated through the speech synthesizer.

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1 25. The method of claim 14, wherein the user interface
2 means includes a speech recognizer, and wherein the
3 responses are received through the speech recognizer.

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1 Sub 98 26. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps
2 of:

- 3 a) providing a plurality of individuals with a
4 corresponding plurality of apparatuses such that
5 each of the individuals is associated with a
6 respective one of the apparatuses;
7 b) entering in the server a plurality of sets of
8 queries;
9 c) generating in the server a plurality of script
10 programs such that each of the script programs
11 corresponds to a respective one of the sets of
12 queries;
13 d) assigning to each of the individuals at least one
14 of the script programs;
15 e) storing in the server the script programs, a list
16 of the individuals, and for each of the
17 individuals, a respective pointer to the script
18 program assigned to the individual; and
19 f) transmitting to each of the apparatuses the script
20 program assigned to the individual associated with
21 the apparatus.
22

1 27. A system for communicating information to an individual,
2 the system comprising:

- 3 a) a server;
4 b) a remote interface means connected to the server for
5 specifying a message to be communicated to the
6 individual; and
7 c) a remotely programmable apparatus for communicating
8 the message to the individual, the apparatus being
9 networked to the server via a communication network;

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10 wherein the server includes a script generating means for
11 generating a script program executable by the
12 apparatus to communicate the message to the
13 individual;

14 and wherein the apparatus comprises:

- 15 i) a communication means for receiving the script
16 program from the server;
17 iii) a memory means for storing the script program;
18 ii) a user interface means for communicating the
19 message to the individual; and
20 iv) a processor means connected to the communication
21 means, the user interface means, and the memory
22 means for executing the script program.
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1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the server further
2 includes database means connected to the script
3 generating means for storing data relating to the
4 individual, and wherein the script generating means
5 includes means for inserting the data into the script
6 program to customize the message to the individual.

7 ~~33.~~ 31.
1 29. The system of claim ~~27~~, wherein the server comprises a
2 web server, and wherein the remote interface means is
3 connected to the web server via the Internet.

4 ~~34.~~ 31.
1 30. The system of claim ~~27~~, wherein the user interface
2 means comprises a display for displaying the message
3 to the individual.

4 ~~35.~~ 31.
1 31. The system of claim ~~27~~, wherein the user interface
2 means comprises a speech synthesis means for audibly
3 communicating the message to the individual.

4 ~~36.~~ 31.
1 32. The system of claim ~~27~~, wherein the communication
2 means includes means for establishing a first

3 communication link to the server to receive a first
4 script program and means for establishing a subsequent
5 communication link to the server to receive a new
6 script program, and wherein the first script program
7 specifies a connection time at which to establish the
8 subsequent communication link.

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33. The system of claim 27, wherein the apparatus further
includes notification means connected to the processor
means for notifying the individual that a new message
has been received.

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34. The system of claim 33, wherein the notification
means comprises a visual indicator for visually
notifying the individual.

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35. The system of claim 33, wherein the notification
means comprises a display for displaying a prompt.

36. The system of claim 27, further comprising a plurality
of remotely programmable apparatuses networked to the
server for communicating information to a
corresponding plurality of individuals, wherein the
server includes database means for storing a plurality
of script programs, the remote interface means
includes means for entering in the server script
assignment information, the server includes script
assignment means connected to the database means for
assigning to each of the individuals at least one of
the script programs in accordance with the script
assignment information, and the database means further
includes means for storing a list of the individuals,
and for each of the individuals, a respective pointer
to the script program assigned to the individual.

~~37.~~ A method for communicating information to an individual, the method comprising the following steps:

a) providing the individual with an apparatus having:

i) a communication means for exchanging data with a server through a communication network, wherein the data includes a script program executable by the apparatus to communicate a message to the individual;

ii) a memory means for storing the script program;

- iii) a user interface for communicating the message;
- and

iv) a processor means connected to the communication means, the memory means, and the user interface for executing the script program;)

b) entering in the server the message to be communicated to the individual;

c) generating the script program in the server;

d) transmitting the script program from the server to the apparatus through the communication network; and

e) executing the script program in the apparatus to communicate the message to the individual.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of transmitting the script program from the server to the apparatus is preceded by the steps of storing in the server data relating to the individual and inserting the data into the script program to customize the message to the individual.

~~39.~~ The method of claim ~~37~~, wherein the server comprises a web server having a web page for entry of the message, and wherein the message is entered in the server by accessing the web page through the Internet and entering the message in the web page.

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1 ~~40.~~ The method of claim ~~37~~, wherein the script program is
2 transmitted from the server to the apparatus through a
3 first communication link, the script program specifies
4 a connection time at which the apparatus is to
5 establish a subsequent communication link to the
6 server, and the method further comprises the steps of
7 establishing the subsequent communication link at the
8 specified connection time and receiving a new script
9 program in the apparatus through the subsequent
10 communication link.

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1 ~~41.~~ The method of claim ~~37~~, further comprising the step of
2 notifying the individual when a new message has been
3 received in the apparatus.

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1 ~~42.~~ The method of claim ~~41~~, wherein the apparatus
2 further comprises a visual indicator connected to
3 the processor means and the step of notifying the
4 individual comprises lighting the visual
5 indicator.

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1 ~~43.~~ The method of claim ~~41~~, wherein the apparatus
2 further comprises a display connected to the
3 processor means and the step of notifying the
4 individual comprises displaying a prompt on the
5 display.

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1 44. The method of claim 37, wherein the user interface
2 comprises a display, and the step of communicating the
3 message to the individual comprises displaying the
4 message on the display.

1 45. The method of claim 37, wherein the user interface
2 comprises a speech synthesizer, and the step of
3 communicating the message to the individual comprises

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~~audibly synthesizing the message through the speech synthesizer.~~

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- a) providing a plurality of individuals with a corresponding plurality of apparatuses such that each of the individuals is associated with a respective one of the apparatuses;
- b) generating in the server a plurality of script programs;
- c) assigning to each of the individuals at least one of the script programs;
- d) storing in the server the script programs, a list of the individuals, and for each of the individuals, a respective pointer to the script program assigned to the individual; and
- e) transmitting to each of the apparatuses the script program assigned to the individual associated with the apparatus.

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